ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR THE DETECTION, NOTIFICATION, AND ELIMINATION OF CERTAIN COMPUTER VIRUSES ON A NETWORK USING A PROMISCUOUS SYSTEM AS BAIT

5   A method, computer program product, and network data processing system for identifying, locating, and deleting viruses is provided. In one embodiment, the network data processing system includes a local server, several client data processing systems, and a bait server. The address of the bait server is not published to the clients. Thus, any attempt to access the bait server would indicate the presence of a

10   virus on the client attempting access. The bait server monitors itself and, responsive to an attempt from a client to access the bait server, broadcasts an indication that a virus attack is underway to all devices within the network. The bait server then ignores all further access requests by the offending client until it receives an indication that the offending client has been disinfected and directs the local server to

15   disconnect the offending client(s) from the network. The bait server also notifies the local server and/or a network administrator of the problem and the identity of the offending client allowing appropriate action to be initiated to disinfect the offending client.

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